

Carter Picks Admiral To Be CIA's Director

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WASHINGTON — President Carter announced Monday he will nominate an Annapolis classmate, Adm. Stansfield Turner, to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Turner, 53, is Carter's second choice for the sensitive position. His first, New York lawyer Theodore Sorensen, withdrew when widespread opposition cast his Senate confirmation in doubt.

President Carter told his Cabinet that "I never knew him" at Annapolis. Carter said Turner "was so far ahead of us" as a midshipman that he never considered him a competitor or even a peer.

But at the Monday Cabinet meeting, Carter lavished praise on Turner, telling those present, "I have never known a better military person . . . I think as you meet him, you will find him a military person who in the future could be the next George Marshall." (Gen. Marshall served as a secretary of defense under President Truman and was the author of the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-torn Europe. He was considered by many to be one of the outstanding men of his generation.)

In addition to naming Turner, Carter announced he is retaining Jack M. Eckard as head of the General Services Administration. A Florida Republican and appointee of former President Ford, Eckard is a multimillionaire whose company operates

hundreds of drugstores in the South, including 74 in Carter's home state of Georgia.

Press Secretary Jody Powell told reporters, "The President feels that it is important that the top GSA job not be political in nature."

According to deputy press secretary Rex Granum, during the Cabinet meeting, Carter also:

- Was told by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus that the natural gas shortage is "real." Whether or not the problem has been "contrived" remains the subject of an investigation, Andrus added.

- Learned from White House energy coordinator James Schlesinger that natural gas pipelines are now "full," that the energy situation is "improving," but that the "emergency" remains.

- Instructed Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to "hold down on the pomp and ceremony" associated with official visits to the U.S. by foreign leaders.

- Told Cabinet members he is processing applications for federal disaster aid because of the weather-fuel crisis "in a conservative way," so as to avoid making "a boondoggle out of them."

Carter also said his CIA secretary-designate will be invited to a subsequent Cabinet meeting "to go over what the CIA does and the services it has . . ."

Turner, presently commander-in-chief of NATO forces in southern Europe, has never served as an intelligence officer and therefore met a Carter requirement of being an "outsider" in the CIA, according to Powell.

A Rhodes Scholar after graduation from Annapolis, Turner graduated 25th academically in the class of 1946 (Carter was 59th) and served as brigade commander of the midshipmen.

Turner has been commander of NATO's southern forces since September, 1975. Previous to that, he headed up the U.S. Seventh Fleet. A Vietnam veteran, Turner was president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. from 1972 until 1974.

During his tenure at the War College, Turner invited then Georgia Gov. Carter to speak to the students there. He also directed a shakeup of curriculum at the school and, according to Powell, "that was one of the things which recommended him" for the top CIA post.